

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and allowance of all the claims of record are respectfully requested. Claims 1, 7-16 and 18-46, 48-49 and 51-72 are pending in this application.

Information Disclosure Statement (IDS):

An Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) was filed on June 15, 2005. A copy of the Form PTO-1449 of that IDS is attached. The Examiner is requested to initial the cited references on the Form PTO-1449 and to return a copy of the initialed document to the undersigned as an indication that the cited references have been considered and made of record.

Allowable Subject Matter:

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication that claims 1, 7-16, 18-43, 53-57, 61 and 62 are allowable. Allowable claims 53-56 depend from claim 51. Claim 51 has not been rejected. Applicant therefore believes that claim 51 (and claim 52 which depends therefrom) is also allowable.

Claims 47 and 50 have been canceled. Claims 44-46, 48-49, 58-60 and 63-72 have been amended to depend from one of the above noted allowable claims. Accordingly, all pending claims in this application are allowable.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103:

Claims 44-48, 50, 58, 59 and 63-72 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being unpatentable over Yokoyama et al in view of Bronstein and Eskildsen. Claims 49 and 60 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being unpatentable over Yokoyama et al in view of Bronstein and Eskildsen, and further in view of Garfield.

ISHIHARA et al.
Appl. No. 09/866,541
August 3, 2005

As noted above, all of the pending claims are allowable. Applicant thus respectfully requests that the above rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103 be withdrawn.

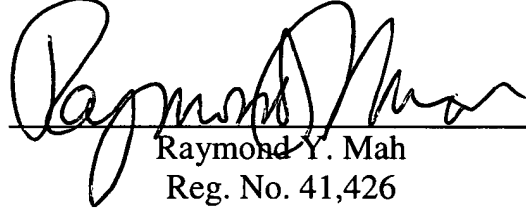
Conclusion:

Applicant believes that this entire application is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests a notice to this effect. If the Examiner has any questions or believes that an interview would further prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Raymond Y. Mah', is written over a horizontal line.

Raymond Y. Mah
Reg. No. 41,426

RYM:sl
901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor
Arlington, VA 22203
Telephone: (703) 816-4044
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100